

Application No. 10/053,931
Amendment dated May 17, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 10, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 8-14 are pending in the application. The Examiner rejected Claims 8 and 14 and objected to Claims 9-13.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112

Applicants have amended Claim 14 as suggested by the Examiner to correct a minor informality.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Applicants have canceled Claim 8 rendering moot the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection thereof. Applicants cancel Claim 8 without prejudice and explicitly reserve the right to pursue a continuing application taking up the subject matter of the canceled claim.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to Claims 9-13 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner further indicated that Claim 14 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 9-14. Applicants have rewritten Claims 9, 10, 12, and 14 in independent form to place these claims in condition for allowance. Claims 11 and 13 depend from Claim 9 and are allowable therewith.

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In the event Applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time or payment of fee, Applicants hereby petition therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 02-0385, BAKER & DANIELS.

If any questions concerning this application should arise, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at 260/424-8000.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER & DANIELS



Michael D. Schwartz
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Attorney for Applicant

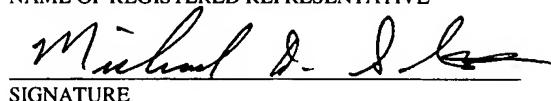
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Enclosure(s):
Postcard

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS, WASHINGTON, DC 20231, on: May 17, 2004

MICHAEL D. SCHWARTZ, NO. 44,326
NAME OF REGISTERED REPRESENTATIVE


SIGNATURE

May 17, 2004
DATE